

§157.38

Legend:(Proposed Amendments)

Single Underline = Proposed new language

[Bold Print and Brackets] = Current language proposed for deletion

Regular Print = Current language

(No change.) = No changes are being considered for the designated subdivision

§157.38 Continuing Education.

(a) Purpose. The purpose of this section is to establish the minimum continuing education (CE) requirements necessary for emergency medical services (EMS) personnel electing to maintain certification through the CE recertification process. These requirements are intended to keep the certificant knowledgeable of current techniques and practice, maintain the quality of emergency medical services provided to the public, and encourage improvement in the skill and competence of EMS personnel.

(b) **[Hour requirements. CE is a requirement of §157.45]** General. CE is a recertification option provided by provisions of §157.34 of this title (relating to Recertification). A contact hour shall consist of 50 consecutive minutes of attendance and participation in an approved CE experience. Credit **[hours]** units for CE activities will only be awarded for **[the two-year time period]** certification period in which they are completed; and if participating in a graded activity, only if the individual receives a grade of "C" or better, or "Pass" in a "Pass/Fail" grading system.

[(1) Emergency care attendants (ECA) shall be required to document 20 contact hours of CE every two years, with a total of 40 contact hours within the four-year certification period.]

[(2) Emergency medical technicians (EMT) shall be required to document 40 contact hours of CE every two years, with a total of 80 contact hours within the four-year certification period.]

[(3) EMT-intermediates (EMT-I) shall be required to document 60 contact hours of CE every two years, with a total of 120 contact hours within the four-year certification period.]

[(4) EMT-paramedics (EMT-P) shall be required to document 80 contact hours of CE every two years, with a total of 160 contact hours within the four-year certification period.]

(c) Content requirements. Candidates at each certification level shall, at a minimum, accrue department-approved CE in the following content areas.

FIGURE: 25 TAC §157.38(c)

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[(c) Content requirements. Candidates at each certification level shall at a minimum accrue hours in department-approved CE in the following content areas.]

[FIGURE: 25 TAC §157.38(c)]

(d) (No change.)

(e) Types of CE programs and additional specific criteria necessary for consideration of CE approval.

(1)-(4) (No change.)

[(5) Formal refresher courses. A refresher course shall:]

[(A) be provided by a department-approved EMS initial training program;]

[(B) meet the CE course approval criteria as in subsection (d) of this section;]

[(C) meet at least the minimum content area hour requirements for the applicable certification level as in subsection (c) of this section; and]

[(D) offer skills proficiency verification.]

(5) [(6)] Independent study. Independent study such as CE articles in professional journals, ongoing serial productions or interactive computer programs shall:

(A) be pre-approved by the department;

(B) be developed by a professional group such as an educational institution, corporation, professional association or other approved provider of continuing education;

(C) involve the learner by requiring an active and appropriate response to the educational materials presented;

(D) provide a test as in subsection (d)(10) of this section; and

(E) provide a record of completion which complies with subsection (f) of this section concerning records indicating completion of the program.

(6) [(7)] Authorship.

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(A) A candidate may receive CE credit for development and publication of a manuscript in a periodical.

(B) The number of CE credit hours awarded for each article shall be determined by the department.

(C) CE credit will be awarded in the appropriate content areas as related to the manuscript.

(D) Credit for publication will be awarded only once per two-year CE time period and the candidate must, upon audit, submit a letter from the publisher indicating acceptance or a copy of the published work.

(7) **[(8)]** Academic courses.

(A) Upon review by the department, a candidate may receive CE credit for academic courses within the specified content areas for each level of certification.

(B) Completion of academic course work shall be credited on the basis of up to 15 CE contact hours for each semester hour successfully completed, within appropriate content areas. Less than 15 hours may be awarded if the academic course content is only partially applicable to content areas.

(C) When approved, the candidate shall receive notification from the department of acceptance of academic hours and amount of CE credit awarded.

(8) **[(9)]** Instruction in approved initial training and continuing education courses. EMS personnel instructing in an approved initial training course or in an approved CE program may apply the contact hours of actual teaching to the appropriate content areas during the two-year CE period.

(9) **[(10)]** CE by optional examination.

(A) Candidates may receive CE credit for passing the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians written and practical examination for their current level of EMS personnel certification.

(B) Passing the examination shall be credited on the basis of 20 contact hours for EMT level, 30 contact hours for EMT-I level, and 40 contact hours for EMT-P level. CE credit for passing the National Registry examination shall be an option only once during the four-year certification period.

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(f)-(i) (No change.)

(j) Audit.

(1)-(2) (No change.)

(3) Falsification of CE documentation shall be cause for probation, suspension, or decertification as in §157.36 **[§157.51]** of this title (relating to Criteria for Denial and Disciplinary Actions for EMS Personnel and Voluntary Surrender of a Certificate or License **[Emergency Suspension, Suspension, Probation, and Decertification of an EMS Certificate]**); §157.16 **[§157.19]** of this title (relating to Emergency Suspension, Suspension, Probation, Revocation **[or Denial]** of a **[Provider]** License **[, and Administrative Penalty]**); §157.43 of this title (relating to Course Coordinator Certification); §157.44 of this title (relating to EMS Instructor Certification); and/or §157.32 of this title (relating to Emergency Medical Services Education Program and Course Approval).**[and §157.64 of this title (relating to Criteria for Suspension, Probation, and Decertification of Course Coordinator, Program Instructor, and/or Examiner Certification).]**

(4)-(5) (No change.)

(k) Failure to complete required CE.

(1) A certificant who has failed to complete the requirements by the expiration date of the certification period **[for the initial two-year CE time period]** will be granted a 90-day extension period to complete and submit the required CE. **[Failure to complete and submit the CE requirements within that time frame shall be cause for emergency suspension until CE requirements are met.]**

(2) A certificant who has failed to complete and submit all the CE requirements prior to the expiration of their certification may apply for late recertification in accordance with §157.34 **[§157. 45(d)]** of this title (relating to Recertification).

FIGURE: 25 TAC, §157.38(c)

CONTENT AREAS	ECA	EMT-B	EMT-I	EMT-P
PREPARATORY	3	6	9	12
AIRWAY MANAGEMENT/VENTILATION	3	6	9	12
PATIENT ASSESSMENT	2	4	6	8
TRAUMA	3	6	9	12
MEDICAL	9	18	27	36
SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS	3	6	9	12
CLINICALLY RELATED OPERATIONS	1	2	3	4
MINIMUM UNITS IN CONTENT AREAS	24	48	72	96
ADDITIONAL UNITS IN ANY APPROVED CATEGORY	12	24	36	48
TOTAL REQUIRED FOR RECERTIFICATION ELIGIBILITY	36	72	108	144